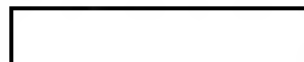
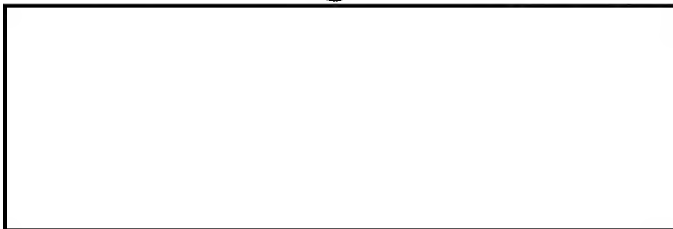


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USIB-D-24.7/1
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Limited Distribution

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

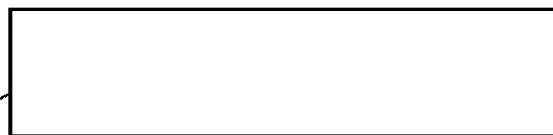
MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT : Communist Military Posture and Capabilities
Vis-a-Vis Southeast Asia

REFERENCE : Special Annex to USIB-M-367, 22 January 1965,
Item 4

1. Pursuant to the reference, the attached USIB Intelligence Memorandum on the subject has been concurred in by the Board as of 26 January 1965.

2. Accordingly, the Memorandum is circulated herewith for information and appropriate dissemination.



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Executive Secretary

Attachment

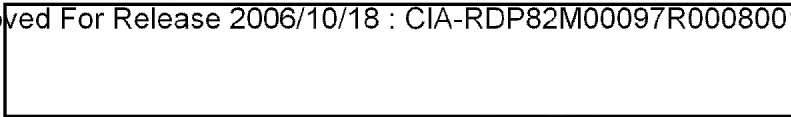
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*Distribution List and
Record of Board
action attached.*



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declassification

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26 January 1965

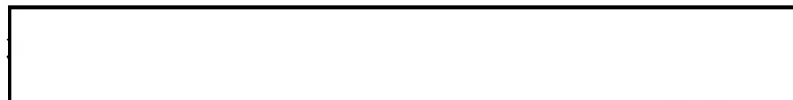
UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD MEMORANDUM

Communist Military Posture and Capabilities
Vis-a-vis Southeast AsiaSUMMARY

Since the Tonkin Gulf incident last August, the Chinese Communists have stepped up efforts to improve their military posture in South China, particularly their air defense capabilities. There have been no significant Chinese ground force deployments, but forces already present within 200 miles of the Sino-DRV border are capable of conducting major ground operations. They could be heavily reinforced within a few weeks from the Chinese interior.

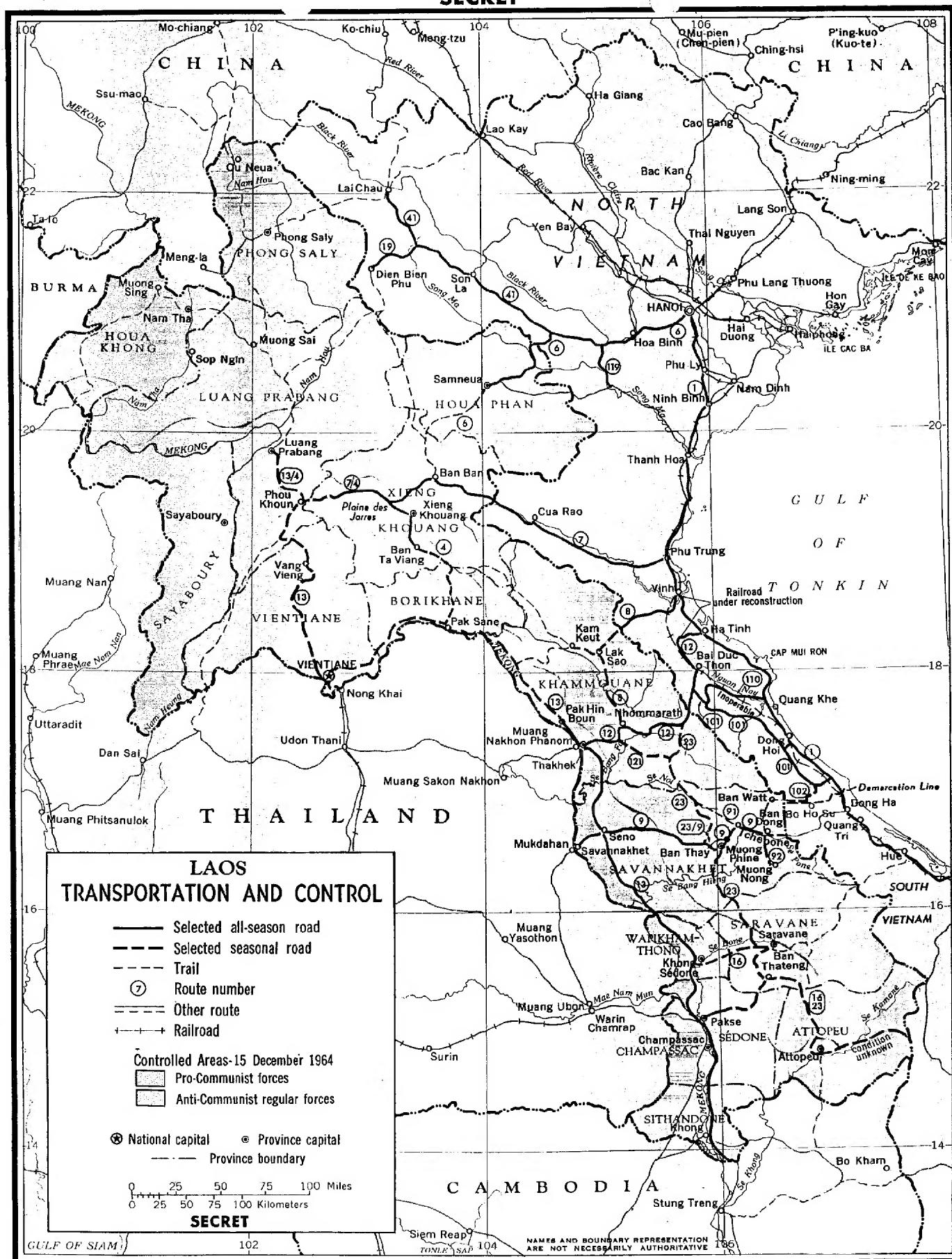
In recent weeks we have noted significant Communist troop movements in Laos, concentrated in the northern Panhandle area. Although a reinforcement of DRV forces in Laos occurs each year at the end of the rainy season, the focus has been farther to the south and the totals probably exceed those estimated in recent years.

This deployment has improved Communist capability to defend their positions. It also improves their capability to undertake offensive operations and to supply reinforcements for the Viet Cong.



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